

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BEIRUT 10043 241330Z

51

ACTION SCSE-00

INFO OCT-01 NEA-05 ADP-00 SCA-01 DEAE-00 SY-10 L-03 H-03

INR-10 CIAE-00 /033 W

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P 241230Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3903

UNCLAS BEIRUT 10043

FOR: SCS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC: RAMON BATEN SEIMON

SUBJECT: W/W (DRUGS) RAMON BATEN SEIMON

REF: BIERUT'S 5306

1. SUBJECT PRESENTLY SERVING 3 YEAR SENTENCE FOR TRAFFICKING HASHISH. SENTENCE DUE BE COMPLETED MAY 14, 1975. SEIMON HAD COME TO LEBANON IN 1972 TO MARRY COUSIN AND WAS ARRESTED WHEN ATTEMPTING DEPART LEBANON WITH BRIDE AND 6 1/2 KILOS HASHISH. SEIMON'S FIRST WIFE, BY WHOM HE HAD SIX CHILDREN, DIED IN 1971 AND CHILDREN WERE LEFT IN MINNEAPOLIS IN CARE OF FRIEND, NANCY GUSTAFSON, WHEN SEIMON MADE TRIP TO LEBANON.

2. EMBASSY HAS NOW RECEIVED LETTER FROM ERMA CRAVEN, HENNEPIN COUNTY WELFARE SOCIAL WORKER, 400 SOUTH ST., MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA, 55415, IN WHICH CRAVEN REQUESTS INFORMATION ON SUBJECT FOR USE IN MINNEAPOLIS JUVENILE COURT HEARING SCHEDULED FOR AUGUST 28, 1973. AT HEARING, HENNEPIN COUNTY WILL SEEK LEGAL CUSTODY OF CHILDREN AS GUSTAFSON UNABLE CARE FOR THEM.

3. SEIMON HAS BEEN CORRESPONDING WITH GUSTAFSON AND ADVISING HER THAT HE "TEMPORARILY REMAINING LEBANON
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PAGE 02 BEIRUT 10043 241330Z

FOR HEALTH REASONS". IN INTERVIEW WITH CONSOFF ON

AUG. 23, SEIMON EXPRESSED SHOCK AT ACTION CONTEMPLATED BY HENNEPIN COUNTRY AND INSISTED THAT EMBASSY NOT REVEAL HE IMPRISONED BUT RATHER SUPPORT HIS STORY OF "TEMPORARY ILLNESS". SEIMON REFUSES TO CORRESPOND WITH HENNEPIN COUNTRY AUTHORITIES HIMSELF AND HIS BRIDE AND NEW IN-LAWS CANNOT BE OF ASSISTANCE. SEIMON ACCUSES THEM OF ARRANGING ARREST ON HASHISH CHARGES IN ORDER BLACK-MAIL HIM INTO SIGNING OVER PROPERTY IN U.S. TO BRIDES' FAMILY.

4. LETTER FROM ERMA CRAVEN REQUIRES REPLY SINCE IT IS REQUEST FROM U.S. LOCAL GOVERNMENT WITH LEGITIMATE INTEREST IN WELFARE OF SIX CHILDREN AND EMBASSY DOES NOT BELIEVE IT CAN ASSIST SEIMON IN DECEPTION AS TO HIS STATUS. IF DEPT. CONCURS, REQUEST DEPT CONTACT CRAVEN DIRECTLY AND ADVISE HER OF SEIMON'S PRESENT STATUS. SHOULD BE NOTED HE WILL BE ELIGIBLE FOR PARDON BY PRESIDENT OF LEBANON AFTER NOVEMBER 14, 1973 BUT THERE NO WAY OF PREDICTING WHEN OR IF PARDON WILL BE GRANTED. BUFFUM

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